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**Coin World**  
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

P.O. BOX 160  
SIDNEY, OHIO 45366

SUBJECT

1877 gold half union patterns.

FOLD 

DATE

10-22-75

Dear Mr. Bowers:

I was wondering if you could give me any information concerning the terms under which the two gold half union pattern pieces were returned to the Mint by Woodin in 1910. I seem to recall reading somewhere that Mr. Woodin received as a bribe for returning the two coins two chests full of miscellaneous pattern and other coins. It is my impression that I read this in one of your "Numismatic Depth Study's," but our card index on you does not mention such a story. Conceivably it could have appeared under another topic.

I would appreciate it very much if you could tell me if such a story ever appeared in your column in Coin World, or if not, if you have any idea where such a story did appear. This may have been something other than I seem to remember it, but I do not think so.

I would also like to urge you to condense the series on U.S. coins from half cents thru double eagles into a book. We receive many requests for copies or tearsheets of particular articles or sets of articles, such as silver dollars, and I feel that there is a market for such a book. I know that I would like to have one.

Sincerely yours,  
COIN WORLD

*Tom DeLorey*

Tom DeLorey  
Collectors Clearinghouse



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Dear Tom:

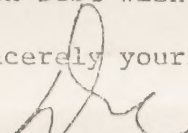
Thank you for your letter. I don't believe that the situation with Woodin in 1910 was ever made public. So far as I know, the Mint raised a fuss about Woodin having the two pieces in gold. There was some type of an attempt made to seize the pieces, but a compromise was reached whereby Woodin would exchange these coins (valued at \$10,000 each in 1910--an astronomical sum at the time) for the Mint's remaining stock of patterns. I learned from a gentleman who lived in Berwick, Pennsylvania (where Mr. Woodin had business interests) that the transaction involved "several crates" of patterns--with huge numbers of certain issues, particularly those of the 1896 pieces in aluminum and nickel. I purchased dozens of 1896 pieces from this gentleman in Pennsylvania who had obtained them from Mr. Woodin or his family.

I doubt if official documentation concerning this exchange will ever come to light, but this is it so far as I know. When the ads in Woodin's reference was published in 1913, it may well have been an effort to popularize patterns on Mr. Woodin's behalf, for Mr. Woodin at that time was the beneficial owner of a huge quantity. Edgar H. Adams was, at the time, one of America's foremost numismatic students (he authored several books and was at one time the editor of "The Numismatist"). William H. Woodin was not a scholar, so far as I know--and probably either loaned financial backing to the project or else specimens from his extensive collection. I rather imagine that the book in its entirety was written by Adams--and that Woodin's name was given to it for financial reasons. The publication, of course, was published the American Numismatic Society in New York City.

Concerning the publishing of a book based on the Coin World articles, I will write to Margo about this today and could her ideas on the subject. I wouldn't mind doing this, but would require some updating from what originally appeared in print--so it would be timely on today's market.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

  
Q. David Bowers